(b) the names of those Central labour organisations which have representation therein and the names of the organisations which do not have representation;

(c) since when, those organisations have been representing; and

(d) the reasons for not extending representation to others?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry (NJCS) is a bi-partite forum between employers and workers of the steel industry and works without any interference from any external agency. Government does not select representatives of this Committee;

(b) and (c) The Central Trade Union Organisations represented in NJCS are:—

(i) Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) since inception (1969).

(ii) All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) since inception (1969).

(Hi) Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) since inception (1969).

(iv) Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) since 1977.

(d) NJCS being a bi-partite forum where workers" and management both are represented. All decisions on the issues including representations of various trade unions etc. are taken in the Committee by consensus.

Non-availability of wax in Bihar

†*58. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to non-availability of wax during the last two years in Bihar, the industries relating to this project are being closed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to rejuvenate the wax industries?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the information received from the State Government, 15 SSI Units based on slack wax closed down due to the non-availability of wax as a raw material from the Barauni Oil Refinery.

(c) Wax is a decontrolled product. Barauni refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) used to produce slack wax from Assam crude up to November, 2000. Thereafter the Assam crude was diverted to Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) and Barauni refinery is now being run on imported crude. Production of wax from imported crude is not economically viable. IOCL floated tenders twice during April, 2002 and July, 2003 for import of wax. The wax processors did not come forward to accept the imported wax citing its high price.

Working Group to revamp NAIS

*59. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Agriculture has in association with the Ministry of Finance, set up a Joint Working Group to revamp the Crop Insurance Scheme, looking at the farmers' suicides in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the terms of reference given to the working group; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for submitting its report; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRJCULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A Joint Group consisting members from the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. has been constituted to study the improvements required in the existing Crop Insurance Schemes. The terms of reference of the Group are:—

(i) To review the status position of existing Crop Insurance Schemes *i.e.* National Agricultural Insurance (NAIS), Pilot